

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 11-12, 15, and 22-27 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

In the Office Action, claim 16 is objected to as dependent on a cancelled claim.

Claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the objection is moot.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

If there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

/nicolas seckel/

Nicolas E. Seckel
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,373
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

NES/rep